

truth, to the real families that have real tragedies that they have to cope with. And I know that they do not need the guidance and help of the Congress of the United States on this very personal and horrible situation. What they need is the help and guidance of God, not the Congress.

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, a call to the community. An honest conversation on race, reconciliation, and responsibility. At the close of the 20th century, the toxic issue of race confronts society everywhere. It is at the core of the crisis facing American cities. This working document in its final form will be offered to the American people by political, business, religious, artistic, academic, and community leaders representing a broad spectrum of opinion. The aim is to rally all Americans around a vision of community that transcends our divisions.

Mr. Speaker, America is at a crossroads. One road leads to community; the other to the chaos of competing identities and interests. We have all hurt one another, often unconsciously, in ways we would never intend. We need each other. We need to eradicate the scourge of racial division. We must demonstrate that our diversity is our greatest strength and that out of this diversity is rising a new American community. We can offer hope to a world torn by divisions of every kind.

We invite every citizen to join us in a renewed commitment to an American community based on justice, reconciliation and excellence. The original promise of this country, that out of a rich diversity of peoples a great nation would rise, has only partially been fulfilled. This unique experiment remains incomplete because the promise of equal opportunity and dignity for all has not been fully realized. Much of the distrust, resentment and fear in America today is rooted in our unacknowledged and unhealed racial history.

For many of us, race determines where we live, where we send our children to school and where we worship. Because racism is deeply embedded in the institutions of our society, individuals are often insulated from making personal decisions based on conscious racial feelings and do not experience the daily burden that their brothers and sisters of color have to carry. We must change the structures which perpetuate economic and racial separation. But no unseen hand can wipe prejudice away. The ultimate answer to the racial problem lies in our willingness to obey the unenforceable.

The new American community will flow from a spirit of giving freely without demanding anything in return. In the new American community, when

any one individual is injured, exploited or demeaned, all of us will feel the pain and be diminished. It will be a place where hearts can put down roots and where each feels accepted and at home. Some painful memories cannot be erased. But forgiving is not forgetting; it is letting go of the hurt.

To build this new American community, we must empower individuals to take charge of their lives and take care of their communities. In cities across America, bold experiments are taking place. Citizens have initiated honest conversations—between people of all backgrounds—on matters of race, reconciliation and responsibility. They have chosen to move beyond blame and guilt, beyond hatred and fear, deciding to face the past with courage and honesty. They are demonstrating that through honesty, a willingness to embrace each other's painful experiences, and with God's power to change us, the wounds of the past can be healed and our Nation become one community.

This approach calls us to a new concept of partnership and responsibility. It means: Listening carefully and respectfully to each other and to the whole community; bringing people together, not in confrontation but in trust, to tackle the most urgent needs of the community; searching for solutions, focussing on what is right rather than who is right; building lasting relationships outside our comfort zone; honoring each person, appealing to the best qualities in everyone, and refusing to stereotype the other group; holding ourselves, communities and institutions accountable in areas where change is needed; and recognizing that the energy for fundamental change requires a moral and spiritual transformation in the human spirit.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION ACT NOT GOOD LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] is recognized for 3 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1833. As a mother of five wonderful children who supports a woman's right to choose, I respect the opposition that our colleagues have to that right to choose. Indeed, we have had some very heated debates on that subject on this floor. But today we are breaking new ground, and it is, I think, most unfortunate for America's women and America's families that we have a bill, before us, the so-called partial birth abortion act.

Mr. Speaker, I strenuously object to the procedures of this House that would allow a bill with that name and that misrepresentation to come to the floor. The makers of that motion know that all abortions taking place in the third trimester are for reasons of serious fetal abnormality or risk to the life or health of the mother.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, though medical science has developed sophisticated testing to determine potential medical problems in the pregnancy, often these tests are not fully accurate until later in the pregnancy. Some women may undergo several ultrasounds and other tests and be told that all is well, only to have a devastating anomaly detected at the 28th week of pregnancy or beyond. Other women may be diagnosed with cancer or kidney failure late in pregnancy or have a previous condition such as brittle diabetes suddenly flare-up so seriously that their own health and even their lives are threatened. These women are faced with the painful and deeply personal choice of ending a wanted pregnancy.

The intact DNE abortion procedure which H.R. 1833 seeks to outlaw is for many women in these circumstances the safest medical option available. It saves the life and protects the health and safety of the mother. This is also used when the fetus cannot sustain life. It also enables the mother to go on more safely to have other children, which outlawing this procedure might prevent her from doing.

The bill also does not take into account the indescribable agony faced by women and families eagerly awaiting a wanted child upon discovering late in pregnancy that their dreams are shattered. Under this bill, women could be forced to continue their pregnancy, even if it is certain, certain, Mr. Speaker, that the fetus will not survive birth. This is cruel, inhumane, and medically inappropriate. The bill is bad medicine and bad policy.

I know that this is a painful and personal matter for the people affected by it. It should not be a decision by this Congress. It should be a decision by a woman, her family, her doctor, and her God, and I urge our colleagues to oppose this legislation and leave the decision with the family.

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. STEARNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will, I believe, begin the process of examination of the electric industry. My bill would repeal prospectively section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. This legislation is only one of many important aspects of the electric industry that must be explored and opened up for discussion. I am hopeful that this legislation serves as an instigator of a much larger debate. I now have 15 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan bill.

My only interest in introducing this bill lies in achieving the most efficient and most cost-effective means of electric generation for America's ratepayers. Prospective repeal of PURPA

represents a positive step in that direction. It is important to note that PURPA is a mandate, regardless of its intent. It substitutes government intervention where the marketplace should dictate. Furthermore, PURPA has not jump-started the renewable energy generation industry as was the act's intent—only 6 percent of PURPA generated power comes from nonrenewables.

Nonetheless, there are other important concerns surrounding the repeal of PURPA. It is important to note that, just as I support deregulation through the repeal of PURPA, I also support the notion of more comprehensive Federal deregulation legislation that would provide for greater and freer competition in power generation.

I truly understand the concerns of those in opposition to my bill—I recognize that their industry has come about largely because of PURPA. I also recognize that not all PURPA generators abuse the system. In fact, a Georgia-Pacific plant located in my district generates its own power from the plant's waste, but sells none back into the system. In this instance, PURPA encouraged innovation and self-sufficiency, a notion that I strongly believe in: It is the American way. But the American way does not rely on a mandate; it dictates deregulation over regulation.

House Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman DAN SCHAEFER has indicated that he intends to hold a series of hearings on the variety of issues involved in electricity deregulation and reform. I support his efforts and look forward to the opportunity to finally address these important issues.

Indeed, by introducing this legislation today, I believe that I am helping to initiate debate, not only on this important issue, but on the whole gamut of issues surrounding the regulation of the electric generation industry. I am anxious to work with Chairman SCHAEFER, Chairman BLILEY, the House Committee on Commerce, and all other interested parties as Congress moves forward with its comprehensive examination of this industry.

Everyone will agree that we must begin to explore a move toward an electricity industry that is based on competition, market force, and lower prices for ratepayers. This is certainly my objective as I introduce this necessary first piece of electricity reform legislation.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 1833

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in the interests of good health care and good public policy, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1833. In the first 6 months of the 104th Congress, 12 antichoice bills passed. This one, H.R. 1833, is by far the worst.

The bottom line is, H.R. 1833 represents an unprecedented politically motivated intrusion into the practice of sound and acceptable clinical medicine.

Here are the facts choice opponents purposely ignore. Abortion in late term pregnancy is rare, very rare. Only four one-hundredths of a 1 percent of abortions are performed at 26 weeks. H.R. 1833 provides no exceptions for cases in which the procedure would be necessary to preserve a woman's health or life. The bill presents a direct constitutional challenge to Roe versus Wade.

If facts do not convince you, maybe this family's story will. Vickie Smith, a mother of two children, ended a wanted pregnancy because the fetus had abnormalities incompatible with life. A large part of its brain was formed outside the skull. Because Vickie went through the safest procedure available, she was able to have more children. She is now expecting her third child. With the safest procedure known, Vickie could have become infertile or could have died.

In the interests of good health and public policy, please vote against H.R. 1833. Do not allow an already cruel situation to be politicized. It is bad public policy and bad medicine.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

From the beginning of time, O God, Your benediction of grace has not changed; through the steadfast heritage of righteous people, Your blessed work has been accomplished; through Your faithful and abiding word, we have been enriched and the meaning of life has been proclaimed, and through Your love we have been forgiven and redeemed and made new. On this new day we offer our thanksgivings for the bounty of Your blessings to us and to all people. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

JOIN THE EFFORT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, today is Halloween—the Democrat's favorite day. All this year Democrats have made a concerted effort to scare people. They have tried to scare children with school lunch horror stories. They have tried to scare seniors with their Mediscare tales from the crypt. And they have tried to scare the poor with EITC ghost stories.

Democrats have lost the battle of ideas, plain and simple. The only weapon they have is distortion and fear. They have no mandate. They have no positive message of hope. And the only way they can influence policy is to scare the wits out of the American people.

Madam Speaker, fear is not a hallmark of sound political leadership and scaring people is what bullies do.

I challenge our friends on the other side to stop the horror stories, take off your masks, and join our effort to save Medicare, reform welfare, cut taxes on families, and balance the budget.

TRICK OR TREAT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I think it is appropriate here on Halloween to be focused on trick or treat. Today we have an opportunity to do that on the question of reforming this Congress and the issue of gifts and lobby reform, whether there will be more tricks for the public and more treats for the Members of this Congress. Since the opening of this Congress, our Republican colleagues have had repeated opportunities to join us in the type of bipartisan reform of lobby and gift ban that has occurred across the rotunda in the U.S. Senate, thus far, whether it was on day 1 of this